

GIPPING RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1945

-----00-----

To the Chairman and Members of the Council -

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting for your consideration my Second Annual Report I wish to state that the continued interest shown by Councillors, as well as their realisation of the exceptional responsibility of the Department's work, is fully appreciated. I am also grateful to my colleagues in charge of other Departments for their ready co-operation at all times, and would particularly mention Dr. Whiteford in connection with matters of mutual concern.

With the end of the war in Europe and the Far East we are at the commencement of a post-war era which will be exceptionally strenuous and exacting. Our task, both as Councillors and Officials, will be to regain a state of "normality" as soon as this is practicable. The obstacles will be immense - it will be impossible, much as we may deplore it, to proceed with the demolition of houses in the immediate future, even though demolition orders were confirmed prior to the war. The provision of water supplies and drainage systems will depend upon the available manpower, for it must be realised that during the next few years every local authority in the country will be eager to press ahead with schemes which have been held up during the past seven years. The demand for higher standards in the production, storage and distribution of food will also require "eternal vigilance" on the part of Sanitary Officers.

There were two staff changes during 1945 - Mr. B.J. Davies came from Smethwick C.B. in November to replace Mr. J.H. Riley as Additional Sanitary Inspector and Miss D.M. Banks was succeeded by Miss M. Mannister who was transferred from the Clerk's Department to undertake the clerical duties.

I have endeavoured to maintain the standard of efficiency and activity set up in 1944 and have been ably assisted by the other members of my staff.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

E.A. MORGAN.

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Housing visits and re-visits:-

Housing Visits and Re-visits:-	
Public Health and Housing Acts	4,019
(including Housing and Sanitation Surveys)	
Building Licences (Defence Regulations 56A)	271
	<hr/>
	4,290

The following list does not include Housing Survey inspections:-

43 Meetings of the Council and various Committees were also attended.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

A preliminary survey of all houses coming within the scope of the Housing Act was commenced in February. This survey is being made solely for the purpose of deciding into which of the five specified categories a house should be placed, and will be followed at a later date by a detailed inspection of all the houses concerned. After the departure of Mr. Riley no inspections were made until Mr. Davies came in November. Although only seven months of the year was devoted to this work by the Additional Sanitary Inspectors 1,120 houses were visited and categorised as follows:-

Parish	Category					Total
	1	2	3	4	5	
Haughley	79	82	35	13	13	222
Wetherden	22	37	5	2	13	79
Old Newton	44	73	12	9	5	143
Gipping	-	8	-	-	1	9
Mickfield	10	10	11	2	1	34
Shelland	-	4	8	5	-	17
Harleston	6	2	-	6	-	14
Stowupland	114	4	103	23	1	245
Stonham Earl	2	38	23	27	8	98
Stonham Parva	12	18	18	14	9	71
Creeting St Peter	16	15	9	2	8	50
Onehouse	20	4	18	12	4	58
Buxhall	24	15	18	8	15	80
Totals	349	310	260	123	78	1,120

- Category 1 - Satisfactory in all respects
- Category 2 - Action required under Public Health Act
- Category 3 - Requiring structural alteration
- Category 4 - Suitable for reconditioning under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts
- Category 5 - Unfit for habitation and beyond repair

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.
DEFENCE REGULATION 56.

Prior to August building licences were only required in the Gipping area in respect of work costing more than £100. With the war still in progress it is obvious that the number of applications was negligible, but on August 1st the limit for unlicensed work was reduced to £10. As at this time I was without assistance my difficulty in coping with this addition to the growing list of responsibilities of an already busy official can best be left to the imagination. Each premises was visited and the issuing of licences in respect of all the approved applications was carried out despite the fact that my normal duties plus Salvage, the enforcement of the Infestation Order, 1943 and the organisation of the County Rats Campaign were also being undertaken during the same period. All this entailed working many evenings of the week as well as week-ends, but it was, nevertheless, carried out successfully.

From August 1st to December 31st, 51 Ordinary Licences, 65 Maintenance Licences and 30 Essentiality Certificates were issued.

WATER SUPPLY.

A shortage of water supply was again experienced at Ashfield and water had to be carted from September 3rd to December 27th. It is hoped that the extension of the main from Winston will be completed during 1946.

62 bacteriological and 8 chemical samples were taken during the year. 26 of these (22 bacteriological and 4 chemical) proved unsatisfactory. As a result of the action taken in connection with the unsatisfactory supplies:-

14 wells were purified (6 of these were shallow wells,
5 deep and 3 bore)

4 wells were closed and new wells sunk

In addition:- 5 pumps were repaired and 1 pump replaced.

DRAINS AND SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

As a result of complaints or inspections the number of nuisances discovered under this heading was 35 and 35 Informal Notices and 7 Abatement Notices were served.

During the year:-

6 new drainage systems were provided; 11 drainage systems reconstructed; 15 drainage systems cleared; 5 new pail closet structures erected; 3 new nightsoil pails installed; 2 pail closets converted to W.C.s.

A sanitation survey of those houses in Needham Market which are to be connected to the proposed sewer was also carried out.

Towards the end of the year complaints were again received of a nuisance from the drainage arrangements at Tollgate Farm, Great Blakenham and of a stench from the open road gullies connected to the County Council's highway sewer. Visits were made on a number of occasions and although it was found that the complaints were greatly exaggerated it was agreed by the County Council officials concerned to provide trapped road gullies and to

do any other work necessary to prevent any possibility of further complaints, however trivial these might prove to be.

A significant feature of many Building Licence applications was the number of requests for permission to install a water-closet with drainage to a cesspool or septic tank in properties having a water supply. This foreshadows the position when water services are extended and, to a very large extent, proves the necessity for combining proposals for water supply with those for sewage disposal.

CESSPOOLS AND SEWAGE WORKS.

The Council's sewage plant at Haughley is now being satisfactorily attended to by the part-time man employed, but the private works at Stowupland is still a periodic source of trouble. Action is intended, as soon as practicable, to get this sewage works reconstructed. No nuisance was experienced from the disposal plants at the various military camps in the area but the plant at Rattlesden aerodrome (outside the area) caused pollution at Buxhall (see "Rivers Pollution").

The periodic emptying of the cesspools at Bramford continued satisfactorily throughout the year.

9 Informal Notices were served for the abatement of nuisances arising from overflowing or defective cesspools, but in no case was the service of an Abatement Notice necessary.

11 Cesspools were emptied; 1 cesspool overflow pipe was disconnected; 2 new cesspools provided; 3 septic tank systems constructed.

STRUCTURAL DEFECTS.

The execution of housing repairs is still difficult as the result of the shortage of building materials. The introduction of a licensing system by the Ministry of Works has, however, assisted considerably in obtaining materials in short supply for necessary repairs.

10 Informal Notices and 5 Abatement Notices were served and the following works were carried out:-

4 floors repaired; 7 windows repaired; 2 sashcords fixed;
14 ceilings replastered; 10 internal walls replastered;
4 roofs repaired; 1 external wall rendered.

Only 2 Informal and 2 Abatement Notices served during 1945 had not been complied with by December 31st.

Structural and other repairs carried out as the result of issuing building licences at the request of the owner have not been included above as it cannot be fairly maintained that these were done as the result of official action.

OVERTROWDING.

7 cases of overcrowding were discovered during the year and, due to the difficult housing position, 3 of these remain unabated. There must, undoubtedly, be a number of actual or potential cases of overcrowding in the area of which I am at present unaware, but both the detailed housing survey and the applications for Council houses will bring these to light in due course. The requisitioning authority exercised by the Clerk has materially assisted in a number of cases in accommodating families who would, otherwise, be compelled to overcrowd houses occupied by relatives and friends.

TENTS, VANS, ETC.

20 caravans and 9 sites were licensed during 1945. An Informal Notice served in respect of the filthy condition of one caravan and the pollution of the site it occupied was successful in securing abatement of the nuisances. These structures are being included in the Housing Survey, and it is intended, when the housing position is normal, to treat them as unfit for habitation under the provisions of the Housing Act.

MILITARY CAMPS AND PREMISES.

Only 9 visits were made to military camps some of which were outside the area. They were, with 2 exceptions, in connection with the improper deposit of objectionable refuse at various sites in the area and are dealt with under "Foul Conditions".

SCHOOLS.

Visits made to schools during the year were mainly of a routine nature and in only two cases was it found necessary to notify the appropriate authorities concerning matters which necessitated immediate action. A number of visits were made to the Debenham School where it was found necessary to "cross swords" with the Ministry of Works over the siting of a septic tank system constructed to deal with the sullage and sewage from the school canteen. Although it was not practicable to construct the disposal system at a distance of 50 feet from the canteen as required by the byclaws, the 42 feet achieved was a little nearer that figure than the 10 feet approved by the Ministry of Works officials. As a result of informal notification to the County Council and the School Managers the Water supply and drainage at Barham were also improved.

PIG AND POULTRY KEEPING.

No nuisance was experienced from either source during the year and the 6 visits made were for the purpose of advising Council tenants and others on the measures necessary to eliminate the possibility of causing a nuisance.

FOUL AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

The exceptionally large number of visits listed under this heading were chiefly due to the indiscriminate and uncontrolled tipping of refuse (some of it of an objectionable character) by various units of the U.S.A.A.F. Some of this refuse was conveyed a considerable distance from aerodromes situated outside the area, and considerable difficulty resulted from the fact that there was no statutory control over the persons creating the nuisance. The position was further complicated by the inability of the Air Ministry to prevent American personnel from bringing refuse into the district. By obtaining the active co-operation and assistance of responsible liaison officers of the R.A.F., however, the nuisance created at the three sites concerned was greatly reduced and eventually eliminated.

7 accumulations of refuse deposited by private individuals were removed, and the recurrence of periodic flooding at two properties was also dealt with. 8 houses which were in a filthy condition gave a great deal of trouble, as also did 5 premises which were vermin infested. A number of revisits at regular intervals was necessary before it could be considered that the houses concerned were in a satisfactory state. In addition to all this 6 ditches were cleaned out, 3 of these were the responsibility of the Council, the other 3 were the concern of private individuals.

To achieve all this it was found necessary to serve 20 Informal Notices, but no Abatement Notices were required.

RODENT DESTRUCTION.

From January 1st the Council accepted responsibility for the enforcement of the Infestation Order, 1943, it having already received authority from the County Council to operate the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. This work is being undertaken jointly by the Stowmarket and Gipping Councils and two operatives are employed. It was rather unfortunate that the first treatment carried out by one of the operatives was followed by a complaint that poultry had died. Subsequent analysis of three of the birds showed that, whatever the cause of death, it was not due to arsenical poisoning. This completely exonerated the operative as arsenic was the only poison used in baiting.

In addition to carrying out a survey of every parish in the area, the operatives treated 177 premises and it was estimated from the number of bodies recovered that 2,736 rats had been destroyed. Periodic revisits to treated premises were also made to discover whether there had been any re-infestation and in 16 cases it was found necessary to give a re-treatment.

Of the 177 infestations, 13 were of a major character and 164 of a minor character.

A County Rats Campaign was completed on March 31st and another commenced six months later on October 1st. The completed campaign was responsible for the destruction of 9,982 rats and £88.0.8d was paid out, on behalf of the County Council, in rewards and disposal charges. Two things are necessary to make these campaigns even more successful:-

1. That the campaign should be a continuous one.
2. That the collectors should be suitably rewarded for their activities. This would result in a larger number being prepared to act as collectors and we would be able to cover every parish in the area.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The number of visits entered under this head (92) appears to be exceptionally high for an area which has no Ministry of Food "slaughtering point". This is due, however, to the arrangement with Stowmarket U.D.C. whereby the Additional Sanitary Inspector inspected meat at the Government Abattoir at Stowmarket until the return of their Sanitary Inspector from the Forces. The amount of meat "condemned" as unfit is credited to Stowmarket.

The renewal of two slaughterman's licences was approved by the Council, as also was the issue of two licences to new applicants.

Proceedings.

The case against Harry Clarke of Applewhite Farm, Old Newton and his employee, C.W.Rulton of Brown Street, Old Newton for slaughtering offences was heard at Stowmarket in January. Both Clarke and Rulton were found guilty and the fines inflicted were:-

H.Clarke - £10 on each of 3 charges and	
£2.2.0 towards costs	= £32. 2. 0.
C.W.Rulton - £1 on each of two charges	= £2. 0. 0.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Periodic visits are made to premises where food is sold or prepared for sale and visits are also made on request for the surrender of food which is unsound.

Only 1 premises was registered as suitable for production and sale of ice-cream.

During the year the following articles of food were prevented from being sold for human consumption:-

33 lbs of imported pork; 7½ lbs of imported bovine liver; 6¾ lbs of bacon; 3-2½ lb tins of pork luncheon meat; 1-2½ lb tin of chopped ham; 1-2 lb tin of rabbit; 1-1½ lb tin of pork sausage meat; 2-12 oz tins of "Spam"; 3-1 lb 14 oz tins of baked beans; 1-1½ lb tin of baked beans; 7-1 lb tins of baked beans; 3-8 oz tins of baked beans; 1-1 lb tin of prepared meal; 14 lbs of dogfish; 2-1 lb tins of mackerel; 1-1 lb tin of pilchards; 1-½ lb tin of salmon; 1-½ lb tin of herrings; 1-4½ oz tin of sardines; 1-4 oz tin of salmon; 6-14½ oz tins of evaporated milk; 3-1½ pint tins of condensed milk; 6-1½ pint tins of condensed milk; 5 lbs of cheese; 6 lbs of chocolate; 2-4 oz pkts of chocolate; 3-2 oz pkts of chocolate; 4-2 oz pkts of chocolate cream; 32-½ lb pkts of chocolate semolina pudding; 2-½ lb pkts of raspberry dessert mould.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES MILK SUPPLY

50 samples of milk were taken during the year, of these 5 failed to satisfy the methylene blue test and 12 the B.coli test. As the result of personal visits to the producers of the unsatisfactory supplies, "check" samples taken at a later date were, with one exception, up to standard. The repeated failure of one producer to obtain satisfactory results ended in his being asked to appear before the appropriate Committee of the Council to show cause why he should not have his Licence as a producer-retailer cancelled. His solicitor, who appeared with him, appealed for a "probation period" to be given his client. During this period stricter supervision was exercised over milk production at this farm and daily visits were made for a full fortnight. It was satisfactorily demonstrated that the chief cause of the unsatisfactory results was the non-sterilisation of milking vessels and there was no further cause for complaint during 1945.

The construction or reconstruction of 18 cowsheds and dairies was completed or in progress during the year. 7 applications for registration as wholesale producers and 2 applications for supplementary licences for the sale of Pasteurised milk were approved by the Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Visits to 14 cases of infectious disease at the request of the Medical Officer of Health were made in respect of 7 cases of Diphtheria, 2 of Scarlet Fever, 2 of Jaundice, 2 of Dysentery and 1 of Tuberculosis.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

Due to pre-occupation with other duties less than half the premises registered as factories, workshops or bakehouses were visited in 1945. As a result of these visits, however, the following works were carried out:-

- 2 new sanitary conveniences provided
- 1 drainage system reconstructed
- 1 water supply purified

REFUSE AND NIGHTSOIL REMOVAL.

The removal of refuse at Haughley was undertaken by another contractor from January onwards. After a great deal of negotiation the Haughley nightsoil contractor agreed to continue with his contract although he had not, originally, been prepared to do so. In 11 Parishes refuse is removed either weekly or fortnightly, whilst only 3 Parishes have arrangements for nightsoil removal. In an area of 49 Parishes these extremely low figures are to be deplored, but the possibility of cancelling refuse removal contracts as soon as this is practicable and transferring the work to the direct control of the Council should eventually lead to refuse removal being carried out in every Parish. The parishes where nightsoil is removed, as well as 3 other parishes, will eventually have their own sewerage schemes. Nevertheless the purchase of a cesspool emptier with nightsoil attachment would prove of material benefit in those

parishes which are not intended to be provided with a sewerage scheme.

It was agreed, subject to no nuisance being caused, to permit the Ipswich Corporation to use land at the rear of Henniker Road, Bramford, for the deposit of refuse. Difficulties have, however, arisen and the matter is being dealt with at the time this Report is being compiled.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

Although the County Council are the authority for the prevention of river pollution, a "watching brief" is exercised by your Senior Sanitary Inspector. Complaints are investigated and, if found to be justified, are reported to the County Sanitary Officer (Mr.Chapman) whose valued assistance and co-operation in connection with matters of mutual interest is greatly appreciated.

Work on the clearance of the Deben at Ashfield was commenced by the Catchment Board in November, but progress has been slow and it is not expected that the W.A.E.C. will be in a position to commence operations on the portion for which the Council has accepted responsibility until August, 1946.

As the post-war sewerage scheme of the Stowmarket U.D.C. has not yet been commenced, the pollution of the River Gipping continues - chiefly from two or three factories along the river bank. I look forward to the day when this "headache" will be cured; speaking personally I believe it is the only item which does not assist the harmonious relationship which otherwise exists between your officials and their colleagues at Stowmarket.

Pollution of the stream at Buxhall was caused by the effluent of the sewage disposal plant at Rattlesden aerodrome. As the result of visits and advice which was acted upon by the Commanding Officer the nuisance was avated.

SALVAGE.

The following materials have been salvaged and sold during the year:-

	T	C	Q	Lbs	£.	s.	d.
Cardboard and Paper	38	6	3	5	258.	13.	6.
Textiles	2	11	1	21	33.	13.	10.
Ferrous metals	10	15	1	6	19.	0.	8.
Bones	5	8	2	13	27.	13.	11.
Boots		9	3	12		2.	9.
String		2	1	22		6.	6.
Cartridge cases			3	4		3.	0.
Miscellaneous (Cartage)	-	-	-	-	6.	4.	0.
	57	15	-	27	£ 348.	9.	9.

1,955 Books and 1,422 Magazines were also sent to H.M. Forces, 19 Books to the British Museum and 432 Books to the Inter-Allied Book Centre.

The amount of £348.9.9d is over £172 less than the figure for 1944 and the weight of material salvaged is about 15 tons lower. This indicates the extent to which public interest in the Salvage campaign has diminished in the year 1945. What the public fails to appreciate is the national need for salvage - shipping which could be used for the importation of food and other things of vital importance to the life of the nation must be used for the conveyance of waste materials from abroad if the quantity salvaged at home does not meet the requirements of the industries concerned. I have continually stressed this fact in addresses to various organisations and in communications to our Salvage Stewards.

My thanks are due to those members of the W.V.S. and others who continue to give voluntary service to the salvage effort, were it not for this and the able and energetic support and assistance of Miss Sally Martin our returns would have "slumped" to a far greater extent than they have done.